

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING STEVE SPEAR

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to recognize Steve Spear of Carol Stream, Illinois, for his outstanding display of service for those in need.

On December 31st, Steve completed his annual Reflection Run to raise money for clean water in Africa through Team World Vision. Each year, Steve celebrates his New Year's Eve birthday by running a kilometer for each year of his life, and is now up to 53, or 32.9 miles. On his most recent Reflection Run, Steve was joined by 25 other runners and their goal was to raise \$10,000, enough to bring clean water to 200 people.

In 2013, Steve left his pastoral position at Willow Creek Community Church to take on an unbelievable task. He ran from Los Angeles to New York, 35 miles a day, 5 days a week, for 5 months, and raised \$500,000. The two days per week he was not running, he was addressing congregations across the country about the importance of following God and looking out for our fellow man. His Reflection Run teammate, Alex Schorr described his passion for helping others best, saying, "Everything Steve does is incredible and inspirational, everything from the Reflection Runs to running across the country. It's never about him. It's always about those he's running on behalf of."

Steve has demonstrated exceptional charity and service, and I am proud to represent him. He is a leader and role model for all Americans. Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Steve Spear for his extraordinary commitment to those around the world who need our help the most.

IN RECOGNITION OF HEATHER SAWYER AND HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Representative JERROLD NADLER of New York, Representative ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS of Maryland, and Representative JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY of Illinois, would like to thank Heather Sawyer for a decade of service to the House of Representatives. Heather Sawyer is a brilliant legal mind and incredible litigator. Her calm, clear-eyed professionalism has been instrumental in protecting the rights of marginalized Americans, including Americans with disabilities, the LGBTQ community, people of color, and women. As a senior and trusted counsel, she helped to roll back the worst civil rights abuses of the post-9/11 era.

Heather left the Georgetown Law Center to join the staff of the House Committee on the Judiciary in 2007. She was instrumental in working to pass the Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act to ensure that Americans with disabilities have the same protections as every other American. During her tenure on the Committee, she worked with Congressman Nadler to draft the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, which built upon the ADA framework to protect pregnant women who need simple accommodations to stay in the workplace throughout their pregnancies.

Perhaps her most indelible legacy on the Judiciary Committee was her work on marriage equality. Heather worked with Congressman Nadler to draft and introduce the Respect for Marriage Act to overturn DOMA. She also helped draft the congressional amicus brief in the Windsor and Obergefell cases, the two landmark Supreme Court cases that paved the way for marriage equality in the United States.

Heather has always been a true champion of women's rights. For the last year, Heather has served as the Staff Director and General Counsel for the Select Investigative Panel, where she worked tirelessly to protect the rights of women, health care providers, and researchers. She navigated the Panel through a difficult and polarized investigation, and astutely defended the facts and the truth. Heather's command of House procedures and rules helped to ensure that the views of the Democratic Members were represented at every step, and she was instrumental in the Panel's ultimate findings and report. She vigorously fought on behalf of women's right to access reproductive health care services, and her brilliant legal analysis and oversight acumen were invaluable to the Panel.

Heather has never been afraid to go head to head with those who would threaten the rights enshrined in our Constitution. During the Bush Administration, Heather worked to expose illegal interrogation tactics and other human rights abuses. She helped Congressman Nadler write the State Secrets Protection Act and legislation to protect the privacy of electronic communications.

Heather is a bright, strategic, and immensely skilled attorney who has never faced a challenge she could not meet. She dedicated more than two years of her public service as the Chief Counsel for the Select Committee on Benghazi. In that role, she fought to defend the truth, expose procedural excesses, and to provide serious and substantive recommendations to improve the safety and security of Americans serving our country overseas. The Members she has served, the staff who have worked beside her, and the institution as a whole are better because of Heather.

On the most sensitive issues of the day, Heather worked side by side with Members of the Judiciary Committee to ensure that the government adhered to the Constitution and respected the basic human and legal rights of all people. Running through all of this work is Heather's uncompromising sense of justice. She simply will not shy away from a fight.

Whether it was fighting against torture and the use of secret evidence, partisan attacks against Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on the Benghazi investigation, or anti-choice partisans who tried to intimidate doctors working on women's health issues.

Heather is a true champion of civil rights and civil liberties and of the Constitution itself and it was truly an honor to work by her side for these many years. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for roll call votes 27 and 30 on Tuesday, January 10, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on roll call vote 27 and I would have voted "yea" on roll call vote 30.

HONORING MR. RICHARD THOMAS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Congressman HUFFMAN, rise today to honor Richard Thomas, the recipient of the 2017 Nick Frey Community Contribution Award. This award was established by the Sonoma County Winegrape Commission in 2013 to recognize members of our community who have made important contributions to grape growing.

A Sonoma County native, Mr. Thomas graduated from Santa Rosa High School, where he was an award-winning member of the Future Farmers of America. He studied agriculture at the University of California, Davis, before going on to work as a vocational agriculture instructor at Healdsburg High School and livestock manager of the Sonoma County Fair.

Mr. Thomas saw Sonoma County's potential for viticulture and became an instructor at Santa Rosa Junior College, where he taught thousands of vineyard owners and workers throughout his 28 year career. He enjoys sharing that "God put Sonoma County on earth for one reason: to produce great wines." His past students are now at the helm of many of the great viticulture operations in our Sonoma County wine community today.

Mr. Thomas is a life-long learner and educator. After taking a sabbatical to study wine trellising in New Zealand and Australia, he brought the skills he acquired back to winegrowers in California, helping to shape the look of Sonoma County Vineyards. He has lectured in the United States and around the world, sharing his mastery of grape growing.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

He is the founder of the Sonoma County Grape Growers Association and the Sonoma County Vineyard Technical Group, which support our community by discussing and implementing the best practices in grape production.

Mr. Speaker, Richard Thomas has been a leader in the transformation of Sonoma County into some of the best of Wine Country. He is respected as a world-class educator and our Sonoma community considers him the Dean of Sonoma County grape production. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today and congratulate him on this well-deserved award.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIVES
IMPROVED BY THE AFFORDABLE
CARE ACT IN TEXAS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of both the Judiciary Committee and the Homeland Security Committee, I rise in celebration of the over 1 million Texans who have gained healthcare coverage under the Affordable Health Care Act, and the millions of Americans more whose lives have been exponentially improved by access to substantial increases in life-saving coverage.

The data show that the uninsured rate in Texas has fallen by 28 percent since the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was enacted in 2010, translating into 1,781,000 Texans gaining coverage.

In addition to residents who would otherwise be uninsured, millions more Texans with employer, Medicaid, individual market, or Medicare coverage have also benefited from new protections as a result of the law.

With respect to employer coverage, 13,709,000 people in Texas are covered through employer-sponsored health plans.

Since the ACA was enacted in 2010, this group has seen:

(1) An end to annual and lifetime limits:

Before the ACA, 7,536,000 Texans with employer or individual market coverage had a lifetime limit on their insurance policy.

That meant their coverage could end exactly when they needed it most.

The ACA prohibits annual and lifetime limits on policies, so all Texans with employer plans now have coverage that's there when they need it.

(2) Young adults covered until age 26:

An estimated 205,000 young adults in Texas have benefited from the ACA provision that allows kids to stay on their parents' health insurance up to age 26.

(3) Free preventive care:

Under the ACA, health plans must cover preventive services—like flu shots, cancer screenings, contraception, and mammograms—at no extra cost to consumers.

This provision benefits 10,278,005 people in Texas, most of whom have employer coverage.

(4) Slower premium growth:

The average premium for Texas families with employer coverage grew 3.5 percent per year from 2010–2015, compared with 8.1 percent over the previous decade.

Assuming Texas premiums grew in line with the national average in 2016, family premiums in Texas are \$5,400 lower today than if growth had matched the pre-ACA decade.

(5) Better value through the 80/20 rule:

Because of the ACA, health insurance companies must spend at least 80 cents of each premium dollar on health care or care improvements, rather than administrative costs like salaries or marketing, or else give consumers a refund.

Texans with employer coverage have received \$20,082,448 in insurance refunds since 2012.

With respect to Medicaid, 4,770,229 people in Texas are covered by Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program, including 3,512,929 children and 374,617 seniors and people with disabilities covered by both Medicaid and Medicare.

The ACA expanded Medicaid eligibility and strengthened the program for those already eligible.

An estimated 1,107,000 Texans could have health insurance today if Texas expanded Medicaid under the ACA.

Coverage improves access to care, financial security, and health; expansion would result in an estimated 127,000 more Texans getting all needed care, 157,400 fewer Texans struggling to pay medical bills, and 1,330 avoided deaths each year.

406,000 Texans, or an estimated 23 percent of those who could gain Medicaid coverage through expansion, have a mental illness or substance use disorder.

Texas could be saving millions in uncompensated care costs. Instead of spending \$1 billion on uncompensated care, which increases costs for everyone, Texas could be getting \$5 billion in federal support to provide low-income adults with much needed care.

Children, people with disabilities, and seniors can more easily access Medicaid coverage. The ACA streamlined Medicaid eligibility processes, eliminating hurdles so that vulnerable Texans could more easily access and maintain coverage.

Texas can better fight opioids. Under the ACA, CMS provided technical assistance that is giving Texas the opportunity to strengthen Medicaid services for people struggling with opioid abuse or other substance use disorders (SUDs).

With respect to Medicare, 3,765,946 people in Texas are covered by Medicare. The ACA strengthened the Medicare Trust Fund, extending its life by over a decade. In addition, Medicare enrollees have benefited from:

Lower costs for prescription drugs: Because the ACA is closing the prescription drug donut hole, 346,750 Texas seniors are saving \$366 million on drugs in 2015, an average of \$1,057 per beneficiary.

Free preventive services: The ACA added coverage of an annual wellness visit and eliminated cost-sharing for recommended preventive services such as cancer screenings. In 2015, 1,746,043 Texas seniors, or 72 percent of all Texas seniors enrolled in Medicare Part B, took advantage of at least one free preventive service.

Fewer hospital mistakes: The ACA introduced new incentives for hospitals to avoid preventable patient harms and avoidable readmissions. Hospital readmissions for Texas Medicare beneficiaries dropped 6 percent between 2010 and 2015, which translates into

4,960 times Texas Medicare beneficiaries avoided an unnecessary return to the hospital in 2015.

More coordinated care: The ACA encouraged groups of doctors, hospitals, and other health care providers to come together to provide coordinated high-quality care to the Medicare patients they serve. 37 Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) in Texas now offer Medicare beneficiaries the opportunity to receive higher quality, more coordinated care.

Now is not the time to undermine or slow the ability of our insurance providers to address growing threats and active cases of Americans' health crises.

Accordingly, I urge all Members to join me in protecting the gains achieved by the Affordable Healthcare Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my floor votes on January 10 and 11, 2017.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "no" on roll call vote number 26, "no" on roll call vote number 27, "no" on roll call vote number 28, "yes" on roll call vote number 29, "yes" on roll call vote number 30, "no" on roll call vote number 31, "yes" on roll call vote number 34, "no" on roll call vote number 35, "no" on roll call vote number 36, "yes" on roll call vote number 37, "yes" on roll call vote number 38, "yes" on roll call vote number 39, "yes" on roll call vote number 40, "yes" on roll call vote number 41, "yes" on roll call vote number 42, "yes" on roll call vote number 43, "yes" on roll call vote number 44, and "no" on roll call vote number 45.

TEXAN VICTOR LOVELADY KILLED
IN ALGERIAN TERRORIST ATTACK

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, January 17 marks the fourth anniversary of the death of Victor Lovelady from Atascocita, Texas. Mr. Lovelady was killed by al Qaeda terrorists in Algeria while he was working at a BP gas facility. I rise to tell his story again, as I have done on this floor before, because it is a story that reminds us about what it means to be a true American hero.

You can learn a lot about a man when trial comes. The trial that came upon Victor Lovelady on January 16, 2013 told us a lot about who Victor was. Victor had been on the job in Algeria only about a week when terrorists stormed the gas plant where he was working. Victor was in a break room when one of his coworkers burst through the door, bleeding from a gunshot wound in the stomach. Seeing the man in need, Victor jumped into action, dressing his wound and caring for him. Knowing the terrorists were working their way through the plant, Victor helped hide the wounded man in a food container. The gunshots grew closer. Victor selflessly first helped

other coworkers in the break room climb up into a false ceiling. Only after they had climbed into the ceiling did Victor try and do the same but fell. Before he knew it, terrorists stormed into the break room and took him hostage.

They tied up his hands and feet. The next day the terrorists placed a ring of explosives around his neck before loading him into a vehicle to take him to another part of the gas plant. Victor never made it—the terrorists blew him up along the way.

We may like to think so, but none of us really know if we would put others before ourselves if we were faced with a life or death situation like Victor was. But we know what Victor did. We know what he chose. In all, Victor's quick thinking and acts of selflessness helped save the lives of four of his coworkers.

Selflessness wasn't something that all of a sudden came upon Victor in this moment either. It marked him as a man, a brother, a husband, and a father. Selflessness was a part of who he was. No, this ultimate trial simply exposed what was already there. Victor was a man who lived his life serving others. So it was only fitting that in his final hours, we were blessed to see one last and heroic act of selflessness in Victor's life.

Victor is survived by his wife, Maureen, and his two children, Erin and Grant. To his family I want to say that my thoughts and prayers are with you on this painful day. We have not forgotten your heroic husband and father.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following votes:

H. Res. 40, Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule. Had I been present, I would have voted "NO" on this bill.

H. Res. 40, Rule Providing for consideration of both H.R. 78—SEC Regulatory Accountability Act and H.R. 238—Commodity End-User Relief Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "NO" on this bill.

H.R. 39, TALENT Act of 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted "YES" on this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on January 11, 2017, I missed three votes in order to attend the testimony of my colleagues Sen. BOOKER and Rep. LEWIS in opposition to the confirmation of Sen. SESSIONS for Attorney General. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question, NO on H. Res. 40, and YES on H.R. 39, the TALENT Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for roll call vote 32 on Wednesday, January 11, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on roll call vote 32.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I regrettably missed votes on H.R. 5, the Regulatory Accountability Act on Wednesday, January 11, 2017. I had intended to vote "no" on Roll Call vote 35, "no" on vote 36, "yes" on vote 37, "yes" on vote 38, "yes" on vote 39, "yes" on vote 40, "yes" on vote 41, "yes" on vote 42, "yes" on vote 43, "yes" on vote 44, and "no" on vote 45.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I erroneously voted "yes" on roll call vote 36, an amendment to H.R. 5 offered by Mr. Peterson of Minnesota. I intended to vote "no" on the amendment.

HESPERIA PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEMBER REBEKAH SWANSON

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 10 years of service of outgoing Hesperia Parks and Recreation Board Member Rebekah Swanson. Rebekah was elected to the Hesperia City Council this past November and is stepping down from her current position on the board.

Rebekah was first elected to the Hesperia Parks and Recreation Board in 2006. Since that time, Rebekah has vociferously fought to improve the quality of recreation programs within the city, culminating in the construction of competition level soccer fields. She also championed better utilization of Hesperia's Civic Park and spearheaded improvements to all of the parks throughout the district. Perhaps her most impressive achievement was that she, along with her colleagues on the board, accomplished these important projects without raising taxes or exceeding the district's budget.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I would like to thank Rebekah for her

leadership and tireless advocacy for the people of Hesperia. I look forward to working closely with her in her new role as a member of the Hesperia City Council.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF TYRUS WONG

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Tyrus Wong—father, artist, and an inspirational American—who passed away on Friday, December 30, 2016.

Tyrus was born as Wong Gen Yeo on October 25, 1910 in Guangdong Province, China. A decade later, he and his father came to the United States in search of a better economic future. Forced to travel under the false identity Look Tai Yow, Tyrus and his father were able to overcome the obstacles of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 through luck and perseverance. They began in San Francisco, were separated shortly, but reunited and moved to Sacramento where his teacher Americanized "Tai Yow" to "Tyrus".

They eventually arrived in Los Angeles, where his father taught him art and trained him in calligraphy. While in junior high, Tyrus's drawing talent was recognized by a teacher who helped him receive a summer scholarship to the Otis Art Institute (located in my district) in Los Angeles. He found his calling and studied there for five years while working as a janitor before graduating in the 1930s.

Among friends, Tyrus founded the Oriental Artists' Group of Los Angeles to provide an opportunity for artists to exhibit their work, which was unparalleled exposure for Asian artists during that time. This group was dispersed, however, during World War II.

Before joining Disney in 1938, Tyrus was an artist for the Works Progress Administration from 1936 to 1938. Tyrus's moment came in the late 1930s when Disney started working on the now famous movie Bambi. Inspired by the landscape paintings of the Song Dynasty, he painted the masterpiece that Bambi became. While he was unofficially promoted to the rank of inspirational sketch artist, he contributed much more and influenced the movie from all aspects.

In 1941, Disney fired Tyrus after the employees' strike. From 1942, Tyrus was employed at Warner Brothers before he retired in 1968. In retirement, Tyrus continued to create art and was famous for building beautiful kites. He also created cards for Hallmark and painted Asian-inspired designs on dinnerware. As a testament to Tyrus's impressive work, Disney honored him in 2001 with the prestigious Disney Legend.

Tyrus is survived by his three daughters, Kay Fong, Tai-Ling Wong, and Kim Wong and two grandchildren. I hope his family can rest knowing his story is an inspiration for all Americans. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Tyrus Wong's incredible and resilient life.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS
EMERGENCY TREATMENT ACT**HON. DAN NEWHOUSE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Veterans Emergency Treatment (VET) Act. One of the most important functions of our federal government is to support and sustain those who have been willing to sacrifice all they have to defend our nation. Whenever our government fails to meet this responsibility, swift action must be taken. Far too many stories of our nation's veterans receiving inadequate care have plagued the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA). My legislation seeks to improve one aspect of treatment for our men and women who have served in uniform. The VET Act will ensure every veteran is afforded the highest level of emergency care at all emergency-capable medical facilities under the jurisdiction of the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA).

The VET Act applies the statutory requirements of the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) to emergency care provided by the VA to enrolled veterans. EMTALA was enacted by Congress as part of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 and is designed to prevent hospitals from transferring, or "dumping," uninsured or Medicaid patients to public hospitals. The legislation requires a hospital to conduct a medical examination to determine if an emergency medical condition exists. If such a condition does exist, the hospital is required to either stabilize the patient or comply with the statutory requirements of a proper transfer. If an emergency medical condition still exists and has not been stabilized, the hospital may not transfer the patient unless the patient, after being made aware of the risks, makes a transfer request in writing or a physician certifies that the medical benefits of a transfer outweigh the risks.

It has become clear that the VA is not fulfilling the EMTALA directive. All too frequently, the policy is to turn down those who try to access an emergency room. In February of 2015, 64-year-old Army veteran Donald Siefken, from Kennewick, WA, arrived at the Seattle VA hospital emergency room in severe pain and with a broken foot that had swollen to the size of a football. No longer able to walk, he requested emergency room staff assist him in traveling the ten feet from his car to the emergency room. Hospital personnel promptly hung up on him after stating that he would need to call 911 to assist him at his own expense. Several minutes later a Seattle fire captain and three firefighters arrived to assist him into the emergency room.

The VET Act will amend current law to remove the "non-participating" designation from VA hospital facilities and statutorily require them to fulfill the requirements of EMTALA. My commonsense and straightforward legislation will ensure that every enrolled veteran who arrives at the emergency department of a VA medical facility indicating an emergency condition exists is assessed and treated in an effort to prevent further injury or death.

I urge all members to join me in supporting this legislation. We must ensure our veterans are treated fairly and with the respect they deserve.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF VICTOR CORSIGLIA, JR.**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, a mere 62 years ago young Victor Corsiglia Jr. proudly graduated from Stanford Medical School and, in 1956, began a lifetime of practicing medicine. This month, his long practice is ending in retirement.

Vic and his wife, Joan, a registered nurse, first served their country when Vic served as a doctor for the Marines at Camp Pendleton right after graduation. In 1961, they made their way back home to San Jose.

Vic and Joan have never been the kind of people who expect others to do the work. They made immense contributions to our local arts world. Vic volunteered for the San Jose Arts Commission, served as a board member for the San Jose Symphony and, along with Ken Wiener and Barbara Day Turner, founded the San Jose Chamber Orchestra. While serving on the San Jose Arts Commission, Vic brought together Jim Reber and Clay Feldman, who founded the San Jose Repertory Theatre. Joan was also active with the San Jose Symphony and was instrumental in restoring its auxiliary. It is not an exaggeration to say that absent the many contributions of Joan and Vic Corsiglia, the artistic life of our community would have been much poorer.

Joan and Vic also took a great interest in the overall health of the community. Vic served on the Santa Clara County Mental Health Board for many years. Joan, as a neighborhood activist, but also as a nurse who understood the need for effective care, worked for decent care for the mentally ill in group homes.

Joan Corsiglia, with Vic by her side, helped found the Campus Community Association (CCA), one of the first active neighborhood associations in the city of San Jose. CCA grew to become an effective grassroots organization in the Naglee Park neighborhood, protecting the quality of life in this downtown neighborhood. The CCA founded the Naglee Park Fourth of July Parade. Before the parade begins, there is a traditional Coyote Creek Run, first initiated by Vic and Mike McDonald. Joan's civic engagement also included chairing the SJSU Campus-Community Task Force in the 1970s, and working on various local political campaigns, including the election of San Jose's first female mayor, Janet Gray Hayes. Joan served as an aide for Mayor Hayes and later for Mayor Susan Hammer.

Vic and Joan also made an invaluable contribution to local parks when, along with David Pandori and Kathy Muller, Joan helped create the Guadalupe River Park Gardens.

Vic and Joan raised four children in the Naglee Park neighborhood, and all four grew up to follow their parents into careers in the medical professions.

What a mark Vic Corsiglia has made as a member of the medical profession. As a leader of the San Jose Medical Group, he ensured that institutions dedicated to patient well-being would exist and flourish even after his retirement.

As a practicing physician, Vic has been a model of what a doctor should be. Modern in-

surance schemes don't always compensate the internal medicine physician when a patient is hospitalized. But that never stopped Vic from always attending to any patient who was hospitalized. Vic was always on duty to his patients and cared about them as human beings.

Vic Corsiglia has been a doctor who is really obsessive about keeping up with the latest in medicine and he's also a physician who takes the time to thoroughly explore every patient's symptoms, to understand just what is going on with a patient. That may be why Vic Corsiglia is known to have an almost uncanny ability to diagnose ailments, even obscure ones, among his patients. If you don't know what's wrong with you, but you know something is wrong, Vic is the man to see.

In the 56 years he has practiced medicine at the San Jose Medical Clinic, he has saved countless lives and has engendered the gratitude and trust of thousands of patients.

One of them is me. I am grateful that in December of 1980 Vic saved my life just as I am grateful that he has helped heal me and my family so many times over the years. To say we will miss him as a physician does not really capture the sense of loss all of his patients feel. However, I count myself among the lucky because although Vic Corsiglia is retiring from the practice of medicine, he is not retiring from being my neighbor and my friend. I know that Vic and Joan Corsiglia will have many new ventures and adventures before them and I hope to share some of them.

Please join me in recognizing Vic and Joan for their decades of service to our community.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL PAUL E.
BELL**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Paul Edward Bell, Colonel, U.S. Air Force (Retired), who passed away in California on November 16, 2016. Col. Bell dedicated thirty-three years of his life to serve in our military and he will be deeply missed.

Shortly after his high school graduation, Col. Bell enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps as an aviation cadet. During World War II, Col. Bell served as a B-24 crew member. Throughout the war, he participated in conflicts on the islands of Morotai, Indonesia and Okinawa, Japan, as well as in support of the final bombing offensive in the Pacific. Col. Bell flew 251 combat missions amassing 862 combat hours in fighter, bomber and rotary wing aircraft. His awards and decorations included the Legion of Merit with four oak leaf clusters, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Air Medal with eleven oak leaf clusters, just to name some of the many medals he received.

Even after leaving the military, Col. Bell continued his public service through his participation in numerous community, military support groups and veteran's organizations. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Elks and the Newcomen Society. He was an area vice president for the California Air Force Association; was on the governing boards of the Silver Eagles, the March Field Air Museum,

the Forum, the Riverside Chamber Military Affairs Committee and the 15th Air Force Association. Col. Bell was instrumental in establishing several historic sites on March Air Reserve Base, persuaded Bob Hope to allow the Riverside chapter of the Air Force Association be named in his honor, and established the chapter's annual "Air Crew Excellence Award" for airmen of the 4th Air Force. In 1995, Col. Bell was recognized by Air Mobility Command as its Citizen of the Year. Col. Bell's significant contributions to the base, its units, its uniformed members and government employees will long preserve March Air Reserve Base's legacy in Riverside history.

I had the distinct privilege of knowing Col. Bell for many years and I will deeply miss him. I extend my heartfelt condolences to Col. Bell's wife, Helen, as well as the entire Bell family. Although Col. Bell may be gone, his selfless dedication to our nation will long be remembered.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SARAH
JEFFERSON SIMON

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sarah Jefferson Simon. Born

and raised in Orange, Texas on November 26, 1961, Sarah was a lifelong Texan.

In 1989, Sarah joined the Orange Police Department and quickly rose through the ranks as she put her life on the line to protect those of us who call East Texas home. After only one year as a Patrol Officer, she was promoted to the Detective Division and given the rank of Detective-Sergeant. Sarah was the first African-American woman to attain this esteemed role within the City of Orange Police Department. Sarah had a God-given gift for her craft, and was often called upon by other law enforcement agencies to break cold cases and execute some of the region's most challenging criminal investigations.

It is no surprise that, with such a heart for the community, Sarah was also deeply involved with the local school district as a tutor, and served as a Trustee of the West Orange-Cove school district. Her children, Diztorsha and Herman, have continued her legacy of public service as educators.

Sarah was a woman of God, a pillar of faith for those in her community and to those in her care. For over 30 years, she attended Starlight Church of God in Christ and richly gave of her time and talent in service of the Church and its parishioners. Her son, Herman, pastors the faithful in Bon Weir.

Sarah went home to be with her Lord and Savior on Friday, January 6, 2017. She will be deeply missed by those whose lives she

touched. My prayers and condolences go out to Sarah's loving family, and her children, Diztorsha, and Herman. Sarah will be sorely missed, but her legacy will certainly live on.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my floor votes on January 4 and 5, 2017. Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "yes" on roll call vote number 7, "no" on roll call vote number 8, "no" on roll call vote number 9, "no" on roll call vote number 10, "no" on roll call vote number 11, "no" on roll call vote number 12, "yes" on roll call vote number 13, "yes" on roll call vote number 14, "yes" on roll call vote number 15, "yes" on roll call vote number 16, "yes" on roll call vote number 17, "yes" on roll call vote number 18, "yes" on roll call vote number 19, "yes" on roll call vote number 20, "no" on roll call vote number 21, "yes" on roll call vote number 22, and "no" on roll call vote number 23.